

REMARKS

Claims 1-28 are all the claims pending in the application. Applicants note that claims 1-17 have been examined on the merits, and that claims 18-28 have been withdrawn from consideration as being drawn to a non-elected invention.

Applicants note that a number of editorial amendments have been made to the specification for grammatical and general readability purposes. No new matter has been added.

I. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Emens et al. (U.S. 6,463,343).

Claim 1, as amended, recites the features of an image capture section operable to capture, from a display screen, a display image that is to correspond to a particular command; a command presenter operable to cause the captured display image to be presented on the display screen so that the user can select the captured display image; and a command selector operable to execute the particular command when the user selects the captured display image. Applicants respectfully submit that Emens does not disclose or suggest at least this combination of features recited in claim 1.

Regarding Emens, Applicants note that this reference discloses a method for controlling remote devices, such as home appliances, from a client computer using a digital image of the remote location at which the remote devices are located (see col. 2, lines 43-45 and the Abstract). As explained in Emens, the digital image of the remote location at which the remote devices are

located is captured using one more cameras positioned at the remote location (see Fig. 2A and col. 2, lines 57-60).

In Emens, in order to control the remote devices, a client computer 102 is provided having a web browser 106 which runs executable content such as a client coordinator 108 (see col. 4, lines 16-18). As shown in Fig. 2B of Emens, a live digital image 208 is generated by a video camera 116 and transmitted to a device server 104, wherein the live digital image 208 includes a light switch 202, a lamp 205, and a window shade 206 (see col. 5, lines 61-64).

In Fig. 2C of Emens, an initial setup screen displayed by the web browser 106 and the client coordinator 108 is depicted, in which the live digital image 208 generated by the video camera 116 is utilized (see col. 5, line 65 through col. 6, line 3). As explained in Emens, while viewing the digital image 208 in the setup screen shown in Fig. 2C, the user is able to select areas of the digital image 208 in order to define “hot spots” 210 and 212, wherein the “hot spots” 210 and 212 correspond to the light switch 202 and the window shade 206, respectively (see Fig. 2C and col. 6, lines 3-7).

In Emens, it is indicated that the user can then right-click on each of these “hot spots”, which results in a display of a command object list 214, wherein the command object list 214 identifies one or more command objects and a description of the control functions associated therewith (see col. 6, lines 7-12). While viewing the command object list 214, the user is able to associate one or more commands (e.g., “turn on” and “turn off”) from the command object list 214 with a selected hot spot (e.g., the area corresponding to the light switch) by double clicking on the desired command object (see col. 6, lines 12-15).

In Emens, after assigning one or more commands to the “hot spots”, an operator is then provided with the ability to control the remote devices, such as the light switch 202 and the window shade 206 (see Figs. 2D through 2J).

For example, as shown in Fig. 2E, when a user passes the cursor over light switch “hot spot”, a control menu 216 for the light switch 202 is displayed within the live digital image (see col. 6, lines 23-28). As shown in Fig. 2E, the control menu 216 includes the commands that the user associated with the light switch 202 (e.g., “turn on” and “turn off”), as explained above with reference to Fig. 2C. After the control menu 216 appears, the operator may select one of the control functions from the control menu 216 in order to control the remote device (e.g., “turn on” or “turn off”) (see col. 6, lines 29-32).

As noted above, claim 1 recites the features of an image capture section operable to capture, from a display screen, a display image to correspond to a particular command; a command presenter operable to cause the captured display image to be presented on the display screen so that the user can select the captured display image; and a command selector operable to execute the particular command when the user selects the captured display image. In other words, according to claim 1, a display image that is to correspond to a particular command can be captured from a display screen, and then this captured image can be displayed so as to permit a user to select the captured image if it is desired that the particular command be executed.

As noted above, Emens discloses the ability to select a device displayed on a live digital image, such as the light switch 202, and then assign particular commands to this device, such as “turn on” and “turn off” (see col. 6, lines 12-15 and Fig. 2C). Thus, while Emens discloses the

ability to select a device and associate commands therewith, Applicants respectfully submit that there is no disclosure in Emens of capturing, from a display screen, a display image that is to correspond to a particular command, wherein the captured display image can be presented on the display screen so that the user can select the captured display image in order to execute the particular command, as recited in amended claim 1.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that claim 1 is patentable over Emens, an indication of which is kindly requested. Claims 2-8 depend from claim 1 and are therefore considered patentable at least by virtue of their dependency.

Regarding claims 9 and 17, Applicants note that each of these claims has been amended to recite the features of capturing, from a display screen, a display image that is to correspond to a particular command; presenting the captured display image on the display screen so that the user can select the captured display image that corresponds to the command; and executing the particular command when the user selects the captured display image.

For at least similar reasons as discussed above with respect to claim 1, Applicants respectfully submit that Emens does not disclose, suggest or otherwise render obvious such features. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 9 and 17 are patentable over Emens, an indication of which is kindly requested. Claims 10-16 depend from claim 9 and are therefore considered patentable at least by virtue of their dependency.

II. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may best be resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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March 15, 2006